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Anne by the Grace of God of Great Brittain ffraunce and Ireland And the Dominions thereunto belonging Queen Defender of the ffaith &c^a To all and singular our faithfull Subjects within our Province of Maryland Greeting Whereas there is A very Pleasant healthfull and Comodious place for Trade by Act of the Generall Assembly of this our Province laid out for A Towne and Port called Annapolis in honour of us Which said Towne and Port hath in few Years (especially since the Accession of our Trusty and Well beloved John Seymour Esq³ our Captⁿ Generall and Governour in Chief of this our Province to the Government thereof) very considerably increased in the Number of its Inhabitants as well as buildings both Publiq³ and private so that it excelleth all other Towns and Ports in our said Province and for that our present Seat of Government within our Province aforesaid is fixed at the said Port and Towne whereby the same is become the chief Mart of the whole Countrey Wee being Willing to encourage all our good and faithfull Subjects as well at present resideing and Inhabiting or which hereafter shall or may Inhabitt or reside within the same Port of Annapolis Of our Royall Grace good will and meer motion with the Advice of our Councill in our said Province Have thought fitt and do by these our Letters Pattents constitute and Erect the said Towne and Port of Annapolis together with the Circuits and Precincts thereof Including **[291a]** the Lands heretofore Layd out for the said Towne & Port of Annapolis Publick Pasture and Towne Comon together with the River and Creeks adjacent into A City by the name of the City of Annapolis And do grant to the Inhabitants of the said City that the same City shalbe an Incorporate City consiting of A Mayor one person Learned in the Law Stiled and bearing the Office of Recorder of the said City and Six Aldermen and Ten other persons to be Comon Council men of the said City which said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill Men shall be a body Incorporate and one Comunity for ever in right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill of the said City of Annapolis & shall be able and capable to Sue and be sued at Law and to Act and execute do and performe as a body Incorporate which shall have succession for ever and to that end to have A Comon Seale and that Amos Garrett

Esq³ one of the Inhabitants of the said City shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the ensueing Year and Wornell Hunt Esq³ Recorder thereof and W^m Bladen Jn^o ffreeman Benj^a Fordham Evan Jones Thomas Bordley and Josiah Wilson Esq³s Inhabitants of the said City shall be Aldermen thereof so long as they shall well behave themselv's therein having first taken and subscribed the Test and severall Oaths for Security of the Government as by Law Established as also the Oath appointed by us or our present Governour to be taken by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of **[291b]** Annapolis aforesaid which shall be administred to them by our Governour in Chief or Keeper of the Great Seale of this our Province for the time being or by such other person or persons as We our Heires and Successors or our Governour as aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time Authorize and appoint to Administer the same And Wee grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall Elect and choose Ten other of the most sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being ffreemen thereof to be of the Comon Councill of the said City for so long time as they shall well behave themselves And to perpetuate the Succession of the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill in all time to come We do grant that for the future they shall Assemble in some convenient place in the said City upon the Feast of S^t Michael the Arch Angel in every Year and shall elect and choose by the Major Vote of such of them as shall be then present one other of the Aldermen of the said City for the time being to be Mayor of the said City for the ensuing Year and upon the Decease or Remoovall of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any Decease or deceases Remoovall or Remoovalls of the said Recorder or Aldermen or of any of them or [*sic*] within one Month after such respective Decease or Deceases Remoovall or Remoovalls the residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor (if he shall be then Living or the Major part of them shall at A Set time by them to be appointed within the said City and Precincts Elect and Nominate some other person or persons to be Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen of the said City in the place or Places of such person or persons so deceased or Removed respectively as the case **[292a]** shall require so as the said Mayor so to be Elected and Nominated be at the time of such Election and Nomination Actually one of the Aldermen of the said City and so as the said Recorder so to be elected and Nominated be A person Learned in the Law and so as the said Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and Nominated be Actually at the time of such Eleccion

and Nomination of the Comon Councill of the said City the said Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and nominated first taking the severall and respective Oaths before mentioned to be appointed as aforesaid and Shall likewise then fill up by the Election of the Free Voters of the said City out of and from among the Inhabitants and freeholders of the said City the full number of Ten persons to be Comon Councillmen And that the said persons hereby Appointed and named or hereafter to be Elected and Nominated Mayor Recorder or Aldermen be Justices of the Peace within the City Precincts and Libertys thereof having first taken the Oaths usually appointed to be taken by the Justices of the Peace And the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen hereby Named and appointed or hereafter to be Elected and nominated or any Three of them whereof the said Mayor or Recorder for the time being shall be one shall have within the Precincts of the said City full power and Authority to Make Constables and other necessary Officers & [292b] to Rule order and Govern the Inhabitants thereof as Justices of the Peace are or shall be Authorized to do and shall have power to Execute all the Laws Ordinances and Statutes on that behalf made as fully and amply as if they were Authorized thereto by express Comission named therein Willing and comanding that no other Justices of the peace or Quorum within our said County or Province do at any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to Execute the Office of A Justice of Peace within the said City or in the Precincts thereof notwithstanding any Comission at large Authorizing them thereunto saving the Authority and Jurisdiction of her Majesty's Justices of Oyer and Terminer and Goale delivery now or hereafter to be Assigned during the time of their holding their Severall and respective Courts in the said City And further Wee will and Grant unto the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill of the said City for the time being full power and Authority after the Space of Six Years to Elect A Sheriff for the said City but that untill then the Sherife of Ann Arundell County for the time being shalbe Sheriff of the said City and to make order and appoint such By Laws and Ordinances among themselves for the Regulation and good Government of Trade and other matters exigencys and things within the said City and Precincts as to them or the Major part of them shall seem meet to be Consonant to reason and not contrary but as neer as conveniently may be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes now in force which said By Laws shall be observed kept and performed by all manner [293a] of persons trading and residing in the said City under such reasonable pains Penaltys and forfeitures as shall be Imposed by the said Mayor Recorder

Aldermen and Comon Councill men or the Major part of them then Assembled from time to time not exceeding Forty Shillings Sterling the said Paines Penaltys and forfeitures to be raized by distress and Sale of the Goods of such persons so offending and to be employed for the Publiq³ benefitt of the said City at their discretion And further Wee do give and Grant full power Lycence Privileidge and Authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill men of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever and allsoe all ffreeholders of the said City that is to say All persons owning A whole Lott of Land with an house built thereon According to Law and all persons Actually inhabiting and resideing in the said City having A Visible Estate of the Value of Twenty Pounds Sterling at the least and likewise all persons that hereafter shall serve five Years to any Trade within this City and shall after the expiration of their time be Actually housekeepers and Inhabitants in the same to send Two Citizens and Delegates to every of our Assembly or Assemblys hereafter to be held or at any time or times hereafter to be called to be held for this our said Province of Maryland to be Elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants Actually being and residing within the said [293b] City having A ffreehold or Visible Estate of the Value of of [sic] Twenty Pounds Sterling therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen Comon Councill men ffreeholders and Freemen as aforesaid or the Major part of them being then present by Virtue of our Writt or Writts of Election to be sent to them for that purpose which said Writt or Writts Wee do hereby grant shalbe Issued out and Sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and so often as occasion shall require Provided that such Electors or Voters as aforesaid do take an Oath to be true to the Interest of the said City before they be Admitted to such Vote And Provided also and at all times after the end of the next Generall Assembly to be held for this Province no ffreemen as aforesaid not being A Freeholder as aforesaid shall have the Liberty of such Vote as aforesaid untill Three months after such his ffreedom obtained And When hereafter there shall be any General Assembly to be held according as Writts shall be sent to the severall and respective Countys for Electing Deputys or Delegates for their severall and respective Countys in this our Province of Maryland Wee further grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them so as aforesaid Elected and sent shall have full and free Votes and Voices in all and every of our Generall Assemblys touching or concerning all matters or things there to be discoursed and handled as

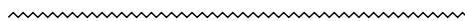
other the Deputys and Delegates of the severall and respective Countys formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have And further Wee grant and give Lycence to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill [294a] of the said City for the time being and their Successors for ever to have and to hold two marketts Weekly within the said City on every Wednesday and Saturday in the week in some convenient place to be by them appointed within the precincts and Libertys of the said City and alsoe Two fairs Yearly to be kept on May Day otherwise call^d S^t Phillip and Jacobs Day and on the feast of S^t Michaell the Arch Angel (or on the next day succeeding each or either of them in Case they shall happen to fall on the Lords day) for the Sale and Vending all manner of goods Cattle and Merchandizes whatever on which said fair days and for Two days before and after all persons coming to the said fairs together with the Cattle goods Wares and Merchandizes & returning thence Shalbe exempt and Privileidged from any Arrests Attachments or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to set such A reasonable Toll upon such goods Cattle Merchandizes and other Comoditys as shall be sold therein respectively as shall be thought fit not Exceeding Six pence upon every beast Sold and the Twentieth part of the Value of any Comodity and Shall and May hold A Court of Pypowdre during the said fair for the Determination of all controversys and Quarrells which may happen therein According to the Usual Course in England in the like cases And Wee grant unto them all proffitts and perquisites due incident and belonging to the said [294b] markett Fair and Court of Pypowdre And further Wee do grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold A Court of Hustings within the said City where they are hereby empowred to make proper Officers and Sette reasonable fees not Exceeding what are now allowd in the County Court and shall have Jurisdiction and hold Plea of Trespass and Ejectment for any Lands or Tenements within the said City as also of all Writts of Dower for the same Lands and Tenements and of all other Actions personall and Mixt and as A Court of Record Give Judgment and Award Execution thereon according to the Laws and Statutes of England and this Province Provided the Demand in the said Accon personall and Mixt exceed not the Sume of Six pound[s] Ten shillings Sterling or Seaventeen hundred pounds of Tobacco And Provided Nevertheless that any party or partys Plaintiffs or Defendants shall be at their Liberty on good Grounds to bring Writts of Habeas Corpus and Certiorari to

remove any Plaints from the said Hustings to the Provinc^{ll} Court of this Province and alsoe appeale from y^e Judgment of the Mayors Court or bring Writts of Error at their choice to the Provinciall Court under such Limittacon and Regulation as is allready by the Act of Assembly of this Province Assigned for Prosecuting Appeales and Writts of Errour from the County Courts to the Provinciall [295a] In Testimony whereof Wee have caused these our Letters to be made Patents Given at Annapolis under the Great Seale of our said Province Wittness our Trusty and Welbeloved John Seymour Esq³ Captⁿ Generall and Governo^r in Chief of our said Province this Twenty Second day of November in the Seaventh Year of our Reigne &c Annoq³ Domi 1708.

Jo. Seymour

296a

Maryland



Copy of a Charter for Erecting
the Town and Port of Annapolis
&c in Maryland into a City by the
Name of the City of Annapolis,
Dated the 22^d of Nov^r 1708.

recd with Col: Seymours

Ltre: of 10 March 1708/9

Recd: 3^d June
Read. } 1709

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